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NMCB 25 FAMILY GRAM



U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION FORCE

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 11, 2006

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Main Body Departs Port Hueneme



Photo by JO1 Benjamin Franklin

NMCB 25 Seabees await transportation to the airport.

Port Hueneme, CA–The main body of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25 departed Port Hueneme in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom this month. The battalion had

undergone both combat and construction training in preparation for the mobilization.

NMCB 25 will be working under the direction of the 9th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), along with NMCB 40, the Army 46th Combat Engineering Battalion (Heavy), and the Marine 9th Engineering Support Battalion.

While in theatre, the Seabees will work alongside these units to help build and maintain the Iraqi infrastructure.



Photo by JO1 Benjamin Franklin

Seabees share departing wishes before heading out.

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From the Commanding Officer: I am absolutely confident in our ability to perform our mission

To our Families and Friends of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Two Five (NMCB-25) it is my pleasure to bring you the first Family Gram of our historic deployment. It has been an honor working with your loved ones and friends for the last six weeks while we trained here at Port Hueneme, Fort Hunter Liggett, and Camp Roberts. The training that we have received has been invaluable and I am absolutely confident in our ability to perform our mission and doing so with the utmost pride and dignity. We trained extensively on cranes, water well drilling, medium girder bridges, convoy security, combat life saving skills, and basic combat skills; however, nothing we have done in the last six weeks is more important than developing our unit cohesion, camaraderie, and forging our “CAN DO” Spirit into our hearts and minds giving us the strength we need throughout our deployment.



CDR David Marasco

Recently we published our mailing addresses while we are deployed. Please remember that we will be operating out of multiple sites and that there are different addresses for each site. Our Seabees have been given their corresponding addresses and they have been all instructed to share that information with their families. This information has been provided to our Ombudsmen network, so please ask them if you have any questions.

I have stressed the importance of our Seabees communicating back home with Friends and Family as often as possible to keep you in the loop and to keep your minds at ease. Please understand that not all of our DET sites will have the same quality of communications as others. Most of our sites have MWR sites for phone calls and E-mail. Keep in mind that these facilities have to be shared with everyone and sessions are typically limited to only about 15 minutes. It's been great that we have been able to communicate back home from California daily if we wish; however, I want you all to be prepared for the fact the frequency in most cases will go down once we deployment due to operational tempo and the constraints we must live by with regard to communications home.

One final note: Please remember that if your Seabee is a member of the NMCB-40 Detachment, for security reasons, they will not be able to talk at all about their mission and most, if not all, of their phone conversations home will be brief in nature.

I want the family and friends of our Seabees to know how much I appreciate and recognize the sacrifices that not only you are making, but those of our Seabees as well. We are a great team and I thank you all for your support and hard work.

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An Introduction to NMCB 25's Executive Officer

LCDR Logan is the Executive Officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25, Fort McCoy, WI. Before arriving at NMCB 25, he served as the Operations Officer of NMCB 28, Barksdale AFB, LA.

Previous assignments include Assistant Training Officer, NAVFAC HQ; Assistant Training Officer, 9th Naval Construction Regiment; and numerous positions at NMCB 15, Belton, MO, including Alpha and Bravo Company Commanders, Assistant Training Officer, Assistant Operations Officer, and Engineering Officer.

Born in Topeka, Kansas, LCDR Logan first enlisted in the Navy Reserve 4x10 program and completed basic training at RTC San Diego, CA and Builders "A" school at NCTC Port Hueneme, CA before returning to NMCRB Topeka for duty with NMCB 15. LCDR Logan achieved the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer before receiving his commission as an Ensign, Civil Engineer Corps



Lieutenant Commander
Thomas D. Logan
Civil Engineer Corps

LCDR Logan graduated from Kansas State University in 1977 with degrees in Construction Management and Business-Labor Relations. He also holds a Master's of Construction Management degree from The University of Kansas, which he completed in 2003.

He was employed in the construction industry as an Estimator and Project Manager for many years before accepting a position with Kansas State University's Department of Architectural



Photo by JO1 Benjamin Franklin

LCDR Thomas Logan (right), the executive officer of NMCB 25, greets CM2 Griffiths, before boarding the plane. Logan and LCDR Peter Muschinske, the unit chaplain, (not pictured), personally thanked each member of main body as they boarded the aircraft.

Engineering and Construction Science as an Assistant Professor in 2000. LCDR Logan is Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist (SCWS) qualified and wears the SCWS pin. His personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

He and his wife Nancy have one son – Ryan. He and his wife reside in Manhattan, KS.

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Command Chaplain: That which is impossible for humans is possible for God

My wife flew out for family weekend. Wouldn't you know it, her flight was delayed for several hours so we were robbed of time that we could have spent together! . We were more than a little disgusted, expressed it, got over it and moved on. In retrospect, we ultimately gave thanks that we 1) had safe transportation (they brought in a replacement aircraft) and accomplished the mission ☺ and 2) we had sufficient communication along the way to manage the stress of the moment.

In marriages, relationships and organizations, plans change. And yet we adapt, overcome obstacles and complete our mission. You can be sure that the battalion's plans will change and adapt. The "needs of the Navy" could supersede our plans at any time. In spite of our best planning and training, people and equipment could be subject to any number of challenges... but we will overcome them. Most religious traditions confess confidence that when it comes right down to it, even that which is impossible for humans is possible for God. Seabees embrace that hope with our confident "Can Do!" spirit.

As we leave the United States to complete our mission, be confident and proud of "your" Seabee (spouse, child, parent). Be confident in his or her skills, in the leadership of the battalion, in the team of support staff that is there to sustain and enhance our effectiveness and to lead the charge

to overcome any challenges we will face. Will there be gaps in our communication back home? Of course. Can we expect changes in plans? Certainly. And for the safety and success of our mission we won't be telling you the specifics of anticipated movements or activities. This deployment will be difficult at times, to be sure, but you can be equally confident that we can do this! RP3 Carlisle and I are here to insure our Seabees' right to exercise their religion. The Command Religious Program will offer counsel and care for the Battalion—in mutual partnership with our medical staff, the Command Master Chief and others. We will handle even the most difficult events that affect our battalion.

All of us will have ways to communicate with you (no, not like we're used to). The command intends to provide regular newsletters and I look forward to that day when I can write my last column before we come home. Thank you to all our Ombudsman and the networks you are developing to stay in touch with one another. You are in my prayers as you accomplish your important and challenging home-front mission.



Lieutenant Commander
Peter Muschinske

LCDR Peter K. Muschinske
Command Chaplain

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Introducing our new Acting Officer in Charge

Our Acting Officer in Charge (OIC) for matters pertaining to any of our personnel who are not in South West Asia is LCDR A.J. Catalanotte.

In addition to his oversight at the RSS and detachments, A. J. will apply his experience and expertise to assist families in resolving issues you may have. These matters might pertain to DEERS (for instance, adding a new child), pay, Tricare and Other benefits.

If you have concerns please bring them via your DET OICs, DET Ombudsman or the Command Ombudsman, Jackie Smith. Jackie's contact information is as follows: (262) 539-3277 (home) or 716-6291 (cell). You can e-mail her at jackieJSmith@seabee.navy.mil



Jackie Smith
Command Ombudsman

American Red Cross Serves up Support

Ventura County Representatives from the American Red Cross arrived on short notice to supply our Seabees with food and drinks during an extended pre-flight staging period. Working throughout the night, nine members manned three work shifts to provide over 14 hours of support.

Daniel Bourgoing, who began his work last year after hurricane Katrina, believed the Seabees are well deserving of their support. "I believe they (Seabees) are performing a good task and completing work that needs to get done. As a Red Cross worker I believe that we should not only support those in need in such situations as

Katrina, but to our military personnel as they perform their duties for our country."

Dave Bratz, a Red Cross worker with over nine years experience was also very grateful. "We're here to support the military. We have a lot of respect for them and they have a tough job to do and we just thank them for everything they do. We're just doing our part to help them out a little bit."



Photo by JO1 Benjamin Franklin

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Out and About



Twelve members of NMCB 25 met on the morning of March sixth to climb a hill overlooking the Point Mugu coastal area. The event was not only good exercise, but with over an hour required to reach the top, the view was well worth it. Those who made the trek said they could even see offshore oil platforms from this height.

A view overlooking the landscape of Hunter-Liggett.



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CM2 Patla frocked to CM1 before deployment



CDR David Marasco (left), the commanding officer of NMCB 25, congratulates newly frocked CM1 Marc Patla on his success.

Even the rain didn't dampen the spirits of CM1 Marc Patla as his father and Commander Marasco pinned the crow's of a first class petty officer to his uniform. After the formal event was finished, a resounding applause was given by the Headquarters Company.

Fellow Seabees feel a sense of pride as they advance in rank, but they also have a sense of respect and admiration for those around them who do the same.

One could sense this admiration at the conclusion of the event. After standing in the rain throughout the entire ceremony, Seabees stood in line to shake Patla's hand and congratulate him on his hard earned success.



CDR David Marasco, (left), and Mark Patla's father, (right), pin first class petty officer crow's to Marc's uniform.

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Seabees Complete Well Drilling Training



Members of NMCB 25 practice drilling wells near Fort Hunter Liggett.

In preparation for deployment, members of NMCB 25 completed extensive training in well drilling. While the terrain of Hunter Liggett poses it's own problems, extremely sandy environments can be even more challenging.

Sand can be very hard on drilling equipment. Not only does it take its toll on the drill itself, but the fine sand particles can also clog filters and waterways.

NMCB 25 Awards



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